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BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

Pacific School of
Religion
Berkeley, Calif.



V. 66
1921

Vol. 66
No 1.

PROGRAM NUMBER

January
1921

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BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD



The Open Door of 1921

THE story of inviting opportunity into which we enter through the open door of the year, is outlined in the following pages. With it are various incidents which illustrate methods and [results of Bible distribution throughout the world and encourage even larger efforts than those of other years.

The budget for the year is the largest in the history of the Society—\$1,222,367. But the need is the largest also—larger even than the budget reveals, for requests totaling several hundred thousand dollars have been excluded. One Agency, for instance, asked for \$75,700; only \$22,500 could be granted.

The work demands an annual budget of \$5,000,000 at the earliest possible date.

These pages, therefore, are not an apology for larger askings; they are trumpet calls to advance.

When the new phonetic script promises to provide untold millions of prospective Chinese readers within the next few years; when even Mohammedan constituencies are calling for Bibles; when our mails are filled with appeals from all parts of the globe; when the world lies so much in darkness both at home and abroad, and when men are seeing as never before that the Christ of the Bible is the only hope of the world: this surely is the year "which the Lord hath made" for our largest service.

The open door—across the threshold lies opportunity.

"In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."

"The seed is the Word of God."



Across the Threshold



WORLD-WIDE in its outreach, the work of the American Bible Society is carried on through nine Home and eleven Foreign Agencies, together with the headquarters administration in New York. Altogether the Society workers, including Executive Officers, Agency Secretaries, headquarters and agency staffs, colporteurs, and unsalaried workers, number approximately two thousand people, who share in the important and gracious work of circulating the Scriptures.

The Home Agencies comprise geographical areas which have been found most practical for efficiency in administration. No estimate as to relative importance of the various fields is indicated by the order of presentation; the arrangement is chronological.

The work of the Foreign Agencies is presented in the order of their geographical arrangement, beginning with Latin America. The work of the Levant Agency has been divided, and during the war has been so administered; but the work of the Agency is here presented as a whole.

To face the great demand for the Scriptures, the increased cost of producing them, and the decreased purchasing power of money is to realize the insufficiency of even our extended budget.

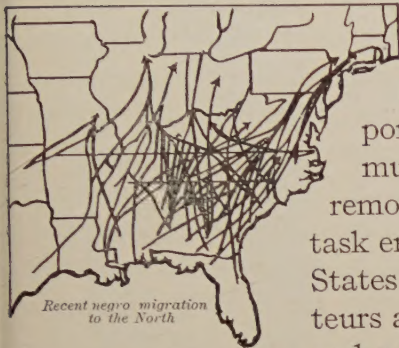
In other parts of the world—Spain, France, Switzerland, Italy, Jugoslavia, Hungary, Roumania, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Germany, Belgium, Russia, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Arabia, Africa, Micronesia, Ceylon, India,—although maintaining no separate Agencies, the Society does a large work through co-operation with missionary boards operating in these countries and through correspondents located in these fields.

The work among the blind, the North American Indians, the soldiers and sailors, and in such institutions as prisons and almshouses, make demands which are not lessened with the passing years.

The details of the budget for the year will be found on pages twenty-eight and twenty-nine.

On page thirty will be found a Prayer Cycle, which we believe will be welcomed by readers of the RECORD.

Agency Among Colored People



Recent negro migration to the North

SINCE the beginning of the war, the migration of negroes to northern cities has been so very great that the work of this Agency—always an important part of the work in this country—has assumed much larger proportions. Its headquarters have been removed to the Bible House, New York, and its title and task enlarged to embrace the Colored People of the United States instead of the South alone. Twenty new colporteurs and unsalaried workers have been added to the force, and a distinct advance is planned for 1921, looking toward the ultimate placing of a worker in every city in the North to which a considerable body of negroes have come. Dr. J. P. Wragg is Agency Secretary.

Such excerpts from reports of colporteurs as the following speak eloquently of the rewards of Bible labor:

They have learned how to value the Book. Many of them started up this interest by getting one of our three-cent portions (probably because one of the children asked for it), or because we insisted upon them doing so. The Sunday schools and the churches are awake, and churches that once owned a worn-out Bible on the pulpit, with half of the leaves lost out or torn out by children who had to learn verses, are now supplied with a good Bible for the pulpit and also many others to put around for the use of the Sunday school. Some of these were first interested in getting what was then known as our five-cent Testament. We could not do without these little seeds, for it is through them that we have been able to accomplish what we have, in love, for the Scriptures.

We have made at the Atlanta Union Station an open-air shop to all passers-by and receive the hearty welcome and cheer of "good morning" and "God bless you and your work," as they pass to and fro. * * * It was my pleasure to remove from the pocket of a young man an empty whiskey bottle, and through constant pleading was able to replace it with a New Testament. Since that time the young man paid me a visit, stating that "that talk and Testament you sold me was the cause of my changing my plan of living."

Because "one of the children asked for it" a portion is often bought and the seed sown that brings forth fruit

In rural Louisiana the colporteur brings light





Northwestern Agency



IN the combination of area, population, and variety of languages used, the Northwestern Agency is the largest of the home agency fields, and is under the charge of the Rev. S. H. Kirkbride, D.D., with headquarters at Chicago.

The inadequacy of all Christian forces, including those of the American Bible Society, is distressing to Dr. Kirkbride, who pleads for largely increased appropriations. Of Chicago he says:

The foreign population dwelling in Chicago may be divided as follows: Germans, 399,977; Poles, 231,346; Swedes, 118,000; Italians, 108,000; Bohemians, 102,000; Lithuanians, 25,000; Austrians, 58,000; Hungarians, 32,000; Hollanders, 17,000; Russians, 16,000; Croatsians, 7,000; Roumanians, 10,000; Greeks, 9,000; Colored people, 175,000.

What opportunities for Bible work these races present! But at this moment not one

salariated colporteur is employed by the Bible Society, though many missionaries receive help in the way of commissions and grants.

Every Protestant denomination is now lamenting in sackcloth and ashes over the neglect to consecrate money and means and men sufficient to have at least preserved the existence of representative Christian churches and institutions in the congested foreign quarters and tenement sections of the city.

Detroit and Omaha also offer large opportunity for advance.

Effective distribution is shown by the following:

While I was selling Bibles in South Omaha, a colored man came up to my stand and said, "I want that Bible that I was talking to you about." An official of the street railway was standing near. He said: "I was glad to see that man buy that Bible. He had been talking to you before. People will pass your stand and their conscience will tell them that they ought to get a Bible and read it. I have been watching you for five years. I used to

watch a man at the shipyards at San Francisco doing this same kind of work. You people are doing a great work."

One day a man said to me, "How is business to-day?" I said, "It is rather dull to-day." He said, "Well, I admire your tenacity in coming out on the streets with Bibles. You are doing a great work. Seventy-five per cent. of your sales are to people that would not think of going to a bookstore and getting a Bible."

Were there space, equal mention might be made of the work in rural fields, mining and lumber sections, "Range" locations, and migrant groups. Even then only a beginning would have been made. Christian strategy dictates advance.



The lumber camps of the Northwest know the welcome visits of the Bible man



South Atlantic Agency

OUR South Atlantic Agency includes six important states. The Rev. M. B. Porter is Secretary, with headquarters at Richmond, Va.

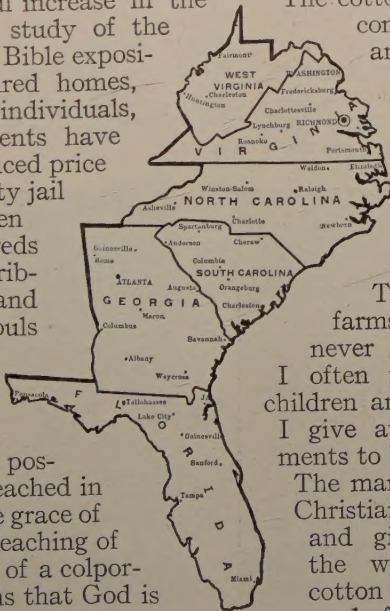
As in other Agencies, variety characterizes the conditions in this section. Work among the mountain whites is especially important. Hundreds of families in which

there is no Bible are found every year. Of late, thousands of mountain families are moving to the cotton-mill towns, and scores of new industrial centers are presenting opportunities for advance work. They bring together thousands of people who can be reached more quickly and economically than in scattered homes among the mountains.

Work among sailors in coast cities is important, also.

The following testimonies from workers of the Society in this field are most encouraging and illuminating:

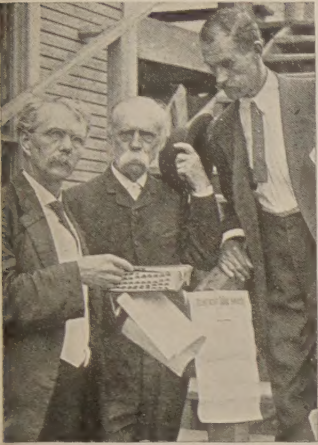
I have noted a wonderful increase in the interest manifested in the study of the Word and in hearing simple Bible expositions. More than a hundred homes, besides an equal number of individuals, without Bibles or Testaments have been supplied, either at reduced price or free of charge. The county jail and the chain gang have been furnished with Bibles, hundreds of portions have been distributed to the young people and uneducated, and many souls have been won unto the Church of Jesus Christ through personal work in the distribution of Bibles and Testaments—souls that possibly could not have been reached in any other way. Next to the grace of God, not excepting the preaching of the Word, I count the work of a colporteur the most effective means that God is using to-day in the reclamation of lost men, women, and children. * * *



The cotton-mill population of my section is composed almost entirely of descendants from old, honorable, educated; wealthy Georgia or Alabama families. An old grandmother, laden with years and poverty, always says: "Yes, Mr. Cotter, I want that Bible; I want my daughters and grandchildren to keep and read it. I'll see that they pay for it."

The younger ones have lived on farms remote from the city and have never had the Bible offered to them. I often find a poor widow with bright children and cheerfully give them a Bible. I give away a great many small Testaments to boys and girls.

The managers of the mills I work with are Christian men. They are my friends and give me every encouragement in the work. There are nine hundred cotton mills in the cotton belt. A wonderful field for Scripture distribution!



Doorstep distribution in West Virginia



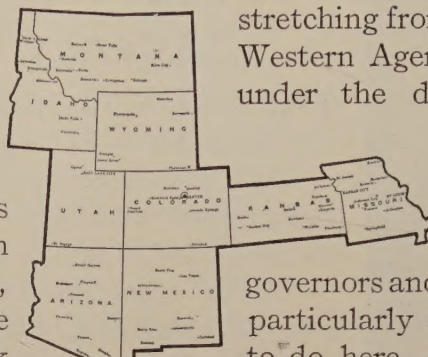
Virgin soil for holy seed



Western Agency

COVERING nine states and River to California, the quarters in Denver and is Rev. A. F. Ragatz, D.D.

Isolated ranch homes with illegals, lacking the advantages of settled communities, but raising into manhood future citizens of our republic,—senators, men, perhaps a President,—are colporteur has important work the children, the coming men and women of these states.



stretching from the Mississippi Western Agency has its head—under the direction of the

out church priv—of settled com—hood future citi—governors and leading business particularly appealing. The to do here—especially among

In this Agency, Mormonism is met in its power. There is no more effective way of meeting it than by Bible distribution, as is shown by the following:

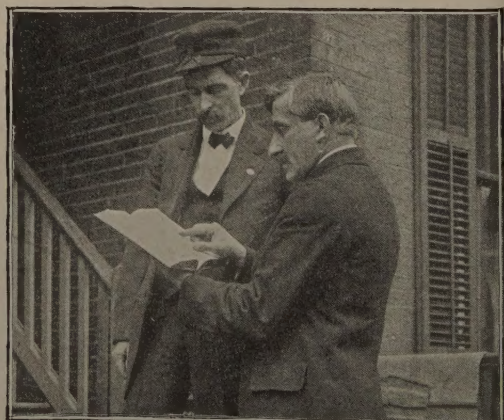
I find many homes in which large families of children are growing up, the father and mother never having had a Bible in the home. Can any one foretell the influence such families will have on the moral and religious life of the community and nation in which they will soon be the home makers? In many of these homes, however, when the Bible is shown and its great purpose explained, they are willing and glad

to buy. I recall one such Mormon family in which there was a boy of ten or twelve years, who begged his mother to buy him a Testament. A year later, the boy informed me that he was going to be a Presbyterian preacher when he grew up. It is hard for those unacquainted with this field to fully appreciate what this means, coming from a Mormon home.

And this in America! Our aim is to change such a situation as this:

I found an unusually large number of people without Bibles in a village of 500 population. This town had long been noted for its wickedness. Only 500 people, but it formerly had a dozen saloons. It is possible that this explains why I found bankers, merchants, laborers, and retired men with homes in which there had never been a Bible. One of the most influen-

tial business men listened to me while I told him about the Bible, and when I showed my stock of variously bound books, he asked, "How many different Bibles are there, anyway?" He actually thought each binding was a different Bible. After a series of most amazing questions he bought a copy and said he would read it.



Along the desert trail and at the doorstep of the city home, the colporteur distributes the Book

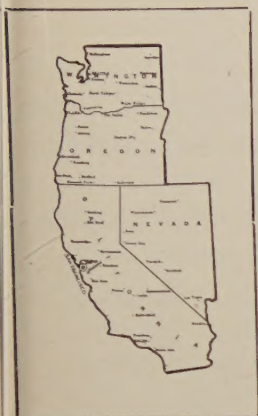
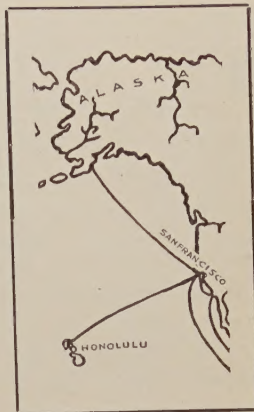


Pacific Agency

UNDER Secretary A. Wesley Mell, the work of this Agency is an increasing one, in both extent and variety. Scriptures in 62 languages are required.

The influx of Mexicans, brought up in ignorance of the Bible as an open book for the people, presents a challenge.

There is an open door to the Japanese, also, which must not be passed by. They seem eager for Bibles.



Conditions are improving in Nevada, which "is considered a very difficult field for Christian work." Secretary Mell writes as follows of this state:

Agricultural resources are being developed, and the character of the population is becoming more permanent. It was a delight to visit the great Humboldt, Carson, Mason, and Smith valleys, with their large cultivated ranches, and houses with every modern improvement. In the Smith and Mason valleys a great irrigation system was being put in and will ultimately bring under cultivation two hundred and fifty thousand acres. Already

the land is being cleared, homes erected, buildings formerly occupied by saloons are being remodeled and converted into schoolhouses. An optimistic spirit prevails. The opportunities for church work were never more encouraging. The new decade will see a large increase in population, and wonderful advancement along all lines. These fertile valleys will blossom like the rose. There will be an increased demand for Bible distribution.

Mr. Mell thinks "there is not a more strategic and important place under the Stars and Stripes for our work than the Hawaiian Islands;" and he calls attention to the probability that new activity in the development of Alaska's resources will soon be apparent, creating new opportunity and duty in that territory for this fundamental missionary work.



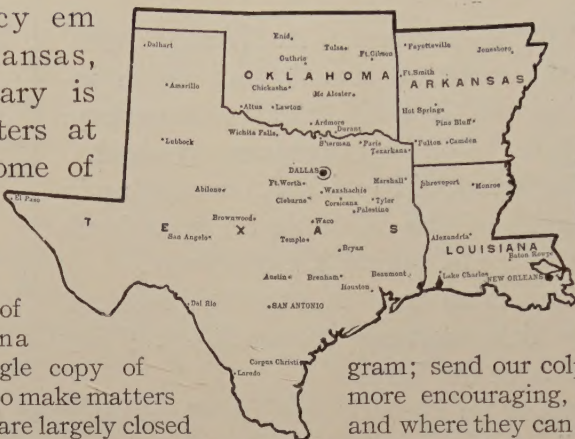
Pacific headquarters are at the civic center of the strategic city of the Golden Gate



Southwestern Agency

THIS Agency embraces Louisiana, Arkansas, Agency Secretary is with headquarters at Here are some of lems of this

It is estimated that eighty per cent. of the homes of southern Louisiana are without a single copy of God's Word; and, to make matters worse, these homes are largely closed to the Bible by the Roman Catholic priests, whether the Bible be Protestant or Roman Catholic. Parents who want the Book to teach the Scriptures to the children are forbidden with the explanation: "You cannot understand it," if it is a Catholic Bible; or, "It is full of lies," if it is a Protestant Bible.



braces, Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. The the Rev. J. J. Morgan, Dallas, Texas. the outstanding prob- great Agency:

The result is ignorance and superstition. The easy thing is to leave southern Louisiana out of our program; send our colporteurs where the work is more encouraging, where Bibles are wanted, and where they can make for the Society a great record. "What would Jesus do?" He came to seek and save the lost, and as his agents we must do the same. The Bible Society colporteurs are the "pathfinders" of the church and must go where the need is greatest, regardless of danger, expense, and meagre results.

Oklahoma has more North American Indians than any other state, nearly 120,000 in all. About the only literature these people have in their own language is the Bible and Hymn Book. What an opportunity for Bible evangelism!

Another opportunity relates to the strategic importance of giving the Bible to Mexicans—the best aid to the solution of our international relations:

The importance of giving the Bible to Mexicans in this country cannot be too strongly emphasized at this time, when they are really hungry for it, and do not fear the priest so much as formerly. At this time when the

Mexican border is up for all kinds of investigations, it would be well to try what the Bible and the love of Christ can do to make our Mexican neighbors peaceful and honorable.

The following is an account of Bible work done by our colporteurs in Laredo:

"As a result of my work, I sold more than 1,400 books in less than fifteen days. Is this not an evidence how the Mexican people respond to the energies of the American Bible Society? A preacher said, "What we need is that the Society send us more books, and more colporteurs like the one that has just visited us."



In family groups, among the workers' homes, the colporteur finds fertile soil for the heavenly seed



Eastern Agency

NEW YORK and its adjacent own interesting problems and tically all the nations sented here, and society, except the "back-tier" is a more To reach some of decadent communities of the older states



territory present also their opportunities. Prac- of the world are repre- nearly every condition of frontier. However, the difficult situation to meet. the isolated, ambitionless, is a difficult matter. County fairs and distribution. Is this

Much work is done in the crowds. Coney Island are popular places for Bible work successful? The following incident would indicate that it is:

When I came off the car at Canandaigua, I had my two large boxes in my hands, and I can tell you they were heavy; especially when you have about half a mile to walk. Well, as I was going along, two men came walking beside me and began talking about the fair; and when we were almost at the gate, one of them said, "And what may you be selling, Mister?" "Oh, I am selling pocket mirrors with a telescope attachment. Come over there," I said, pointing out where my exhibit was to be, "and I will show you something worth while." Well, I did not get them until the afternoon, but I got them all right. "Whe're those mirrors, Boss?" one said. "Right here," I said, holding out the Bible. I began to read from James 1:23, 24—the mirror—and also Isaiah 45:22—the telescope attachment. Well, praise the Lord! I sold them each a Bible and had a heart-to-heart talk with them also.

Much work is also done far from the crowds. Writes one colporteur:

During my Madison County tours, a lady remarked to me, "You will not find any homes in this vicinity without Bibles." "I hope so," I replied. But that very afternoon I found four Protestant families without the Scriptures. In each case I sold them a Bible.

The Secretary, the Rev. Samuel C. Benson, is fully alive to the importance of adaptation and co-operation in this Agency: adaptation to the unending variety of conditions faced; co-operation with the large number of forces at work for the Christianizing of America, among which our Auxiliary Bible Societies are doing a splendid work.



*Adirondack
lumber camps
and homes of
immigrant
people are in-
viting fields
of service*





Central Agency

OHIO, Kentucky, Tennessee, Miss
prise the Central Agency, with
under the direction of the Rev.

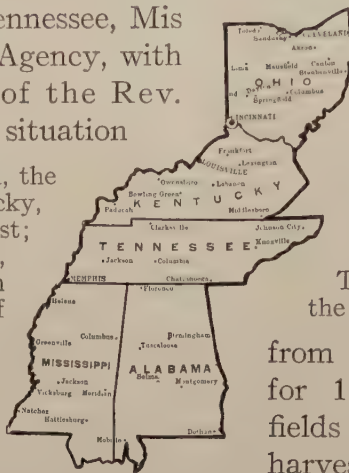
Here, briefly, is the situation

In Ohio, rural and urban, the
coming foreigners; in Kentucky,
blue-grass region of the west;
ored people to the North,
into industrial centers; in
and the thriving cities of

A few sentences
nying his estimates
Surely the needy
where white to the

The need is appalling. * * * I feel that we
are attacking the fields—immense fields—with
a sickle, when we ought to be at it with
a steam-driven reaper. * * * Subtle forces
are seeking to undermine the Christian Sab-
bath, the Christian home, and the Christian
church.

The Slovaks are asking us for a Bible in their
own tongue, and by all means they should have
it. For a thousand years, now, they have
been without it. Chinese, Japanese, African
tribes, have the Bible in the tongue in which
they were born. But not so the Slovaks,
living in the midst of a nominal Christian en-
vironment. Denied the Word of Life by those
who boasted they had it themselves, they now
turn in their need to our Society and ask us
for it. This appeal presents a glorious oppor-
tunity and a solemn obligation. A young



issippi, and Alabama com-
headquarters at Cincinnati,
Frank Marston, D.D.

—a situation of contrasts:

native-born Americans and the in-
the mountains of the east and the
in Alabama, the emigration of col-
and the immigration of foreigners
Tennessee, the native mountain whites
the valleys.

from Dr. Marston's letter accompa-
for 1921 will be very informing.
fields are everywhere; and every-
harvest.

Slovak of this Agency has already donated
\$1,000 of his own money toward the cost of
securing the Bible for his people, and has dedi-
cated his life to its circulation in case we can
supply it to them.

The mountain work of Kentucky, Tennes-
see, and Alabama still presses upon us. Hun-
dreds of families in the recesses of these moun-
tains need, and must have, the Word of God.

The mining camps, steel mills, cotton mills,
logging camps, present the same old story of
need and spiritual destitution.

I should very much like to fit up two or
three Ford machines for transporting Bibles
over the country. These machines, thus
equipped, would enable a colporteur to cover
the country districts as well as the town, and
at the same time get back into his home in
the evening when his work was done.



*On broad-
acred farms
and in
crowded
centers*

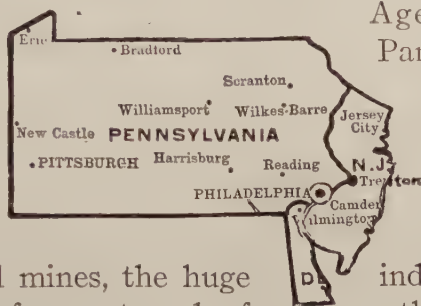
Contrasts?

*Yes; and
opportuni-
ties for
sowing the
seed*



Atlantic Agency

THE Atlantic is the Rev. Frank P. Parkin, D.D., with headquarters at Philadelphia, embraces the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. Its fields are crowded hives of industry rather than the wide stretches of farms and ranches. It is the district of the great coal mines, the huge industrial centers; the breeding place of all kinds of unrest and of atheistic and anarchistic propaganda; the battleground of evil forces.



Agency, whose Secretary Parkin, D.D., with headquarters, embraces the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. Its fields are crowded hives of industry rather than the wide stretches of farms and ranches. It is the district of the great coal mines, the huge industrial centers; the breeding place of all kinds of unrest and of atheistic and anarchistic propaganda; the battleground of evil forces.

Much of the work is among foreigners; it must often be a work of faith and not of sight. The type of experience our colporteurs "enjoy" is illustrated by the following:

Up to this time I have not found it hard to get into the homes, but cold weather is upon us and it will be trying to me. Every door will be tightly closed, and I shall have to wait patiently before each one, either to be let in or told

to go away. A colporteur must work for the glory of God and the good of the people who need the Word of God. No other reason would be sufficient to induce him to undergo what he has to, every day and every month.

While priests have, in certain sections, ordered those who purchased Bibles to burn them, the people are beginning to show a spirit of independence.

A Slovak girl in Homestead, Penn., when some persons were speaking disrespectfully of the Bible, rebuked them and openly bought a

New Testament. She said that she worked in Protestant homes and saw what kind of people the Bible makes.

A colporteur at work in a home in western Pennsylvania





West Indies Agency

Embracing Cuba, Porto Rico, Haiti, Santo Domingo, Martinique and Guadeloupe, Virgin Islands, and Venezuela—with Agency headquarters at San Juan, Porto Rico.

THE West Indies!

sugar, blue
half-clad blacks,
coanuts, sug
the dreamy
tropics, arise
disorder in
But, from the
of the true
Bible and its
vision is a chal
lion people—65%
—faced with great pos
political, and educational,
inherited formalism, igno



Selling Bibles in a Venezuela street

Visions of grapefruit,
seas, clear skies,
palms, ferns, co
ar cane, and
life of the
in delightful
one's mind.
point of view
lover of the
influence, the
lenge. Ten mil
whites, 35% blacks
sibilities,—commercial,
—but weighed down by
rance, and superstition.

Why should our work be strengthened and enlarged? Secretary Dr. J. Marcial-Dorado says:

1. All Christian denominations are opening new fields in this territory.
2. As these are the nearest territories to the United States, a friendly American influence is most essential, and friendship with the United States should be based upon, and influenced by, a knowledge of the Bible among the people.
3. *A most important reason!* Latin people are exceedingly sentimental and susceptible. The greatest danger that could foreshadow us is the ideal of Bolshevism, robed in the false idea of Christian communism, such as is being preached at this time in Europe. In order to avoid such a result, if a propaganda of this kind should strike these countries, we have two great remedies. Of these the principal one depends upon the Americans. It is the circulation of the Bible, so that the Christian ideal may be understood.

Let a university professor in Cuba testify to the importance of our work:

The citizens of the United States should make their first large donations to the Bible Society. The United States will gain more with the Bible than it will gain with its commerce and its politics.

Dr. Dorado says: "All the Latin people of Spanish and French origins are awakening to the fact that the great American ideals have their fundamental force in the Bible." And a Christian representative of a French firm writes, concerning the work in the French Islands:

I have seen with great joy that the Bible is becoming known in the French Islands. I thank God. It is the best work that the Americans do in these countries. I am sure that all good French patriots are grateful for the disinterested labor of the American Bible Society in their midst and for these countries.

There is no alternative for the American Bible Society but to go forward in the West Indies.



Such homes need the Light

ment should look with favor on the work of the Bible Society, which is calculated to be a strong ally of the forces making for the redemption of Mexico and the solution of the vexing Mexican problem. Mr. Mellen's report shows sympathy and good judgment:

It is the simple fact that the call for the Bible is increasing. For this there are two causes: one is the steady growth of missionary work; the other, a great hunger for something to sustain the inner life of the soul in the trials and hardships of life. * * * There is abundant proof that Mexicans are lovers of the artistic and the beautiful. No one can deny that a certain perversion of these traits may be found in the superstitious adoration of pictures and images; and some missionaries have carefully avoided all use of religious pictures on that account. But it has seemed to me safer to try to guide and educate than to forbid all use of pictures. When I found a new price-list was needed, I decided to try the experiment of publishing one that might be used to help the colporteurs in making sales, and also tend to aid people in beginning to read the Bible. I decided to try the experiment of putting a few Bible pictures into the catalogue. Instead of giving an explanation of the pictures, references were made to chapter and verse, with the suggestion to compare the work of the artist with the Bible account; and there was a short article on the proper use of religious pictures. Testimony has come of people who began to look up references at once. One result is that a man who opens the Bible for the first time looks for a definite place and with a definite question in his mind.

He further reports this encouraging fact:

Not all of the evangelical churches working in Mexico have entered into the plans for co-operation and division of territory; but the results of Bible Sunday show that there is one thing on which they are all united, namely, the support of the American Bible Society.

If the churches are united in support of this work, are we not under new obligation to advance?

Mexico Agency

Established in 1878. Headquarters in Mexico City. The Rev. A. H. Mellen is the Agency Secretary.

THE new president of Mexico is reported to have said he would "rather teach the Mexican people to use the tooth-brush than the rifle." "Washful waiting," so to speak. If it be true that "cleanliness is next to godliness" (or, more properly, a part of godliness), the govern-



One method of Bible distribution in Mexico



"Docile, browbeaten, enslaved"

Panama Canal and Central America Agency

This Agency covers Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, the Canal Zone, and the northern portion of Colombia. The Rev. W. F. Jordan is the Agency Secretary, with headquarters at Cristobal, Canal Zone.

"TO the poor the gospel is preached."

The representatives of the Bible Society must often feel that they are fellow-laborers with the Master, as they labor in the countries embraced in this Agency. Poverty, backwardness, hopelessness, degradation—all these seem emphasized as one contemplates these peoples. Men are cheaper than mules, or even water power, and are the beasts of burden in Guatemala. But the Bible can change all this; is changing it gradually, though not as rap-

idly as the Christian conscience demands.—not because it lacks power, but because we are sending out so few colporteurs to distribute it. Here the Bible Society is recognized as the pioneer in missionary work.

Mr. Jordan is deeply stirred by the terrible need of these peoples, and the opportunity for Bible work. Read his words of challenge to increased effort:

We were peculiarly impressed with the need of the Indians of Guatemala. * * * Going up to the heights of the Indian country, we began to meet, long before daylight, great numbers of Indians, both men and women, toiling up and down the mountain trail, bowing under the weight of burdens of from one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five pounds weight, supported on the hips and held in place by a broad strap over the forehead. It dawns on one that not the mule, as in Honduras, nor the ox, as in Salvador, but the Indian is the beast of burden in Guatemala. For this arduous labor he is paid an infinitesimal wage. It costs less to feed an Indian than a mule. He requires less care. May God open our eyes to see our opportunity to help the docile, industrious, browbeaten, enslaved, debauched, intellectually capable, artistic, faithful and lovable Indian of Guatemala to a knowledge of his inheritance in Christ Jesus.

There is a peculiar responsibility resting on the American Bible Society to do a more adequate pioneering work in this section, which lies almost at our nation's doorstep.



In a Honduras village

Upper Andes Agency

Consisting of Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, and the southern portion of Colombia. Headquarters, Lima, Peru.

THE Upper Andes Agency was set off from the La Plata Agency January 1, 1920, because the growth in population and needs of the latter made it necessary to have a Secretary in charge of the West Coast.

The Rev. R. R. Gregory is at present in charge of both the Panama Canal and Central America and the Upper Andes Agencies, during Mr. Jordan's absence in this country, and will become Secretary of one or the other Agency upon Mr. Jordan's return.

Although, at present, most of the Bible circulation in these countries is in either the Spanish or English language, the Bible Society feels that its most vital missionary work will be among the Indian descendants of the Incas. For the whole of this great Andean plateau there are but a few, struggling mission schools and a handful of missionaries. As Willard Price writes, in the January 1st number of *The Christian Herald*:

"After four hundred years of contact with so-called Christianity, religious conditions are worse than they were under the Incas. From more or less simple beliefs, the people have passed to complicated beliefs, which have as their basis the money-gouging schemes of the

priests. . . . They are threefold slaves—under religious slavery, the slavery of ignorance, and economic slavery. The last is made possible by the first two."

Quechua is the language spoken by the Indians, of which there are three dialects—those of Peru, of Bolivia, and of Ecuador. As a beginning of its attempt to reach these submerged natives, the Bible Society has printed a portion of the New Testament

in the dialect of the Peruvian Incas; has a whole New Testament for the Bolivian Indians in process; and has translated one or two Gospels in Ecuador dialect.

Our work has but commenced in this land that needs a great missionary invasion, and into which Protestant efforts have only filtered heretofore. It needs men, ministers, medical missions, schools, hospitals—but, to quote Mr. Price again:

Beyond schools and hospitals, the greatest need is for a genuine Christianity. This land of the sky, raised aloft in the heaven of untwinkling stars, is without the light of the Star of Bethlehem. More of the exports from this part of the world come to the United States than go to any other country. The United States can send one gift in return that will more than repay for all that is received—THE BIBLE—a book containing a message of new freedom for these enslaved descendants of a once great and free empire.



The plaza of Ambato, Ecuador, on a market day



Brazil Agency

Headquarters, Rio de Janeiro. Agency Secretary, Dr. H. C. Tucker.

THERE is a River of Doubt in Brazil, discovered by Theodore Roosevelt.

But there is also a River of No Doubt, discovered by the American Bible Society. There is absolute certainty as to the need of Bible work—not only need, but demand.

Says Dr. H. C. Tucker, our Agency Secretary:

The requests that we are unable to comply with (for more Scriptures in all sections of the country) are literally piled up in our office. Many times this year we were not able to furnish even a few copies to those who sent in requests for large supplies, and some of the colporteurs

were without Scriptures for days or a week or two at a time.

A correspondent wrote recently: "Yesterday a man walked in from 60 miles away for Bibles, and I had to disappoint him! To-day I had a visit from another man from the farthest town on the railway. He wanted to take 15 Bibles back with him to-morrow!

The work in the Sunday schools of Brazil is of special importance, for several reasons:

Very special prominence is given to the Bible in the Sunday schools of Brazil for several reasons: First, it is pre-eminently the textbook of the Sunday school; second, it is a book that has been comparatively little known and read by the people generally, and consequently it attracts special attention and is of peculiar interest among those who read and study it for the first time; third, there is a very small variety and supply of Sunday-school literature in Portuguese; hence the necessity of a more general use of Bibles and Testaments. A number of schools endeavor to have each pupil own a Bible and have it on hand at the school every Sunday. The Bible societies are the agencies for supplying these growing demands with Scriptures, and are glad to furnish them on favorable terms, that a Bible may be in reach of every Sunday-school scholar and worker in Brazil.

The mission schools and colleges make free use of the Bible, conduct courses in Bible study, and stimulate interest in the reading and daily use of the Word of God.

The Young Men's Christian Associations have made special provisions for courses and classes in Bible study. The movement is awakening interest and tends to increase demands for Scriptures.

There is the most cordial co-operation between all these agencies and the Bible Society.

We must not fail these agencies. They depend upon us for the Book. Our co-operation is indispensable.



An unlovely village in northeastern Brazil



La Plata Agency

Composed of Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Chili. The Rev. F. G. Penzotti is the Agency Secretary, with headquarters at Buenos Ayres.

OUR future relations with South America demand that evangelical Christian forces bring to these peoples the Book which has been at the foundation of our own national life. We shall be negligent if we fail to do this pioneer Christian work before the day of pioneering is passed in these lands.

In Argentina a Bible coach and a Bible motor are valuable aids; in Paraguay a new yacht multiplies the colporteur's contacts and efficiency many times.

Bible circulation is plodding, unspectacular, day-after-day effort, whose most significant results are often not seen for many years. The following, from our colporteur in Uruguay, illustrates this point:

Five years ago I came to this small republic as colporteur, and, by hard working and many privations, I have visited it almost throughout, going from house to house and from door to door. * * * Once I met a man, a stranger, who related how he became a Christian:

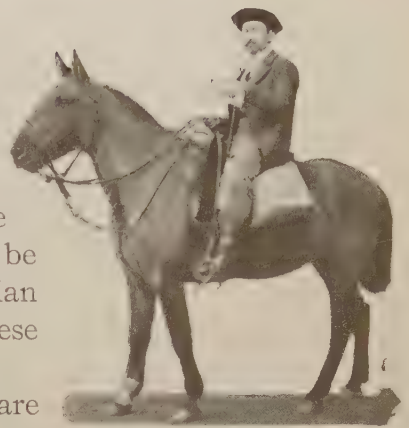
"One day," he said, "I happened to be in company with some friends of mine, when you

were walking in the street, and seeing us you came directly to where we were standing and offered the Bible to us, at which my friends did burst into laughter, mocking at you; yet, I bought a Bible of you. When I reached home I began to read it diligently, and the Lord took my heart to be his own, and now I am a happy man."

Multiply these instances by the scores, and then remember that all this is as leaven in the lump of a nation's life, and the eye of faith can see great results issuing from this patient house-to-house work.

From remote places come testimonials such as this:

A woman said that the priest told her that, if she would not burn her Bible, it would bring misfortune to her house. "That I dared not to do," she said; "and so I threw it into the canal; the water carried it away into the interior of a vineyard and left it sticking in the mud; it was found so by the contractor of the vineyard, who took it, and, after having cleaned it, began to read. He said to me, 'Since I am in possession of this book things have changed, and I am a very happy man now. It seems as if I were a child of God.'"



An Argentine colporteur



A home in the south of Chili

*The Question*

The time is not distant when the situation will be sufficiently clear to allow discussion and adoption of reformatory measures. Will such measures be founded on Christian principles? And will the Bible be received as the guide to future development? The immediate future will show this. The American Bible Society has, during eighty-three years, worked steadily and earnestly to introduce God's Word into the hearts of the people of these lands. The record of its work has shown that its efforts have been more or less appreciated by every one of the Oriental races, Christian or Mohammedan or Hebrew. There is every reason to hope that acquaintance with the Scriptures will go on increasing. *The Bible Society has a greater work to do in the future and a richer harvest to reap.*

Here, too, is a reason why the budget of 1921 must be larger than ever before. The letter is from our sub-Agency Secretary in Egypt:

As to the colporteurs, I am sorry to say, when I visited them I found all in financial stringency, for the salaries appointed to them are not enough. They were obliged to sell their properties to supply their families' needs, for everything increased more than 400%, and their salaries are the same as before the war. The 33% of their salaries which we increased this year is the 25% cut in 1914. They all beg the Society to have mercy upon them and increase their salaries.

Our salaries now, which were the same before the war, are not enough for our necessities, and we all supplied our need in different ways. Some of us who had properties, sold them, and some who had nothing are in debt.

Levant Agency

Rev. Arthur C. Ryan, Agency Secretary, Constantinople.

THE outline of the territory covered by the Levant Agency forms a huge interrogation mark. It is appropriate. The future of these lands—Bulgaria, Turkey, Armenia, Mesopotamia, Syria, Egypt, and the Soudan—is a question whose answer can be influenced mightily by the circulation of the Bible.

Acting Secretary Peet writes as follows:

During the war the work in this territory was more seriously affected than that of any other of our Agencies. No regular colporteur work was possible outside a few cities, and even here it was both precarious and difficult. As to the future, we find ourselves still tarrying on the threshold of the new era which is expected to come forth from the crumbling down of Turkish supremacy in the Orient. The political changes to be brought about are destined to exert incalculable influence in every branch of Oriental life. Reform in every line is the general watchword, and reform in religious life is one of the first demands.

*On the Bridge of Nations*



Siam Agency

Headquarters, Bangkok. Agency Secretary, Rev. Robert Irwin, B.D.

FAR-AWAY Siam, thrilled by the ideals of democracy during the World War, joined the Allies. But a democratized un-Christian Siam is a possibility, unless the influence of Christian forces is vastly increased. And, first of all, Bible work must be enlarged.

To give the people the Scriptures in their own language—that is the great first task, and our Agency Secretary is indefatigable in his efforts to this end. He says:

The Lao of North Siam and the Leu and Shans have not yet come to want books badly enough to pay for them, and it is good business to coax them a while longer. "It's our language," eagerly cried a crowd of the Sip Sawng Punna people, as one of their number took a book and began to read in a loud voice. The entire village clustered about him, and he read the story of Ruth. The visitor to Lakawn has a pleasure coming to him if he runs across a group of the illiterate Kamu squatting by the roadside listening to Ah Siang reading from his Kamu Epistles of Peter. A half dozen booklets judiciously placed will probably mean a little school or class in a year or two, and a whole tribe will take a step upward.



Annual festival, Phrapatom

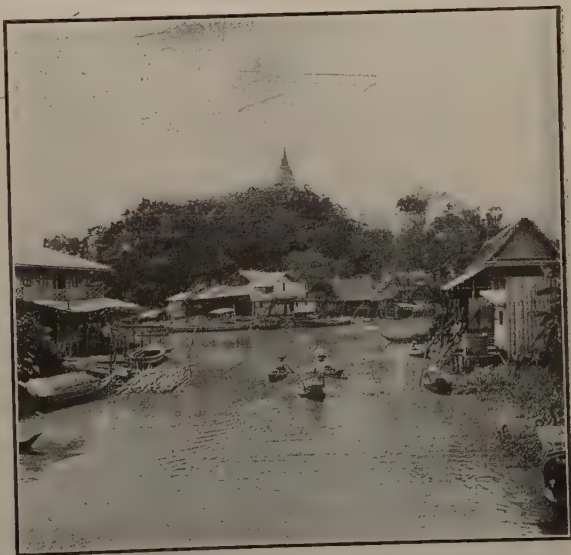
Again, see the Agency "in action." Mr. Irwin writes:

A special feature this year was the house-to-house canvass of an entire province—2,000 square miles, population 100,000, 315 villages and towns, and 13,867 houses; 30,000 portions of Scripture were distributed. Two Siamese officials wrote notes of appreciation. One says:

"This splendid piece of work done by the colporteurs has been made possible by the generous aid of the American Bible Society, and we hereby extend our heartiest appreciation to the Bible Society and to Mr. Irwin."

It is difficult to appreciate what it means to cover the territory of a province and to enter every house in it. Remember these colporteurs went mostly barefooted and bare-headed, with only a shoulder bag and a long-bladed knife; and that it is a mountainous country, whose roads are mostly lonely trails along bridgeless streams, with tiger and robber infested forests, and whose people are suspicious of every stranger. Unless we let our imagination loose, we are apt to suppose that these men have an easy time of it on their eight dollars a month. To one who actually thinks the matter out, these colporteurs are the real Peace Commissioners.

It is foundation work—slow, difficult, inconspicuous. But it is a foundation of rock, not sand. After all, only a beginning has been made in Siam. "There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed."



Rivers are highways for the Book in Siam



China Agency

Headquarters at Shanghai. Rev. John R. Hykes, D.D., Agency Secretary

GREAT is the need and wonderful the opportunity in China! Providentially, the challenge of the deep need is met in part by the possibilities in Bible work opened up by the new phonetic script. In this new method, thirty-nine symbols do the work heretofore done by nearly fifty thousand.

When it is remembered that an educated person can learn to read and write the new script in three or four hours, and an uneducated woman from the country can learn it in only three or four weeks, the outlook for Bible circulation seems unlimited.

An appealing need is emphasized by Mr. Strong, Secretary of the sub-Agency at Peking.

Although the present depot is of a very modest exterior and in a side street, yet it is probably one of the best-known places in Peking. When once we have a Bible House worthy of the name, with facilities for not merely the selling of the Book, but also a place where it may be read in quietness, very efficient work may be done. We must remember that the masses are reached in preaching-halls and by street preaching; but other means must be found for reaching the large student class and officials. With these two classes we are in constant touch, but would

be more so if accommodation were available for such extra and very important work.

And this is what happens when the work is hampered by lack of money:

During the latter years, owing to lack of funds, our work has been limited to the plains and where colportage could be done by voluntary workers from the various mission out-stations; and all work in unoccupied fields had to be left undone. But we trust now that, before long, we shall be able again to send men to these outlying districts where the gospel is only preached by traveling colporteurs.

Another compelling reason for strengthening our resources for work in China is set forth in this excerpt:

For the work ahead of us we need a better grade of men. If these cannot be supplied by the existing training institutions, it will be up to the Bible Society to train their own men for their own especial work. All this will mean more funds, both for training and for higher salaries; for, quite apart from the need of a better grade of men needing more, the cost of living in China is by no means what it used to be before the war, and will continue to rise.

With reference to the value of this pioneering work, let this testimony of an American Board missionary be noted:

I have never forgotten the splendid help which the Society gave us in getting the field



A village inn, North China



of our station started in its early days (in 1910). The value of that early colportage work becomes clearer as the years go by; and I know that we should never have been able to build up the thirty or forty churches which have developed in the section of the station field, had it not been for the preliminary work and seed-sowing done by the colporteurs of the Bible Society.

In Hunan the military governor is one Feng Yu Hsiang, a Christian general. He is passionately anxious that all his soldiers—and there are 9,000 of them—shall be Christians. Evangelistic meetings have been held almost continuously:

To meet the needs of his men the general has bought as many as 500 New Testaments at a time. He has again and again bought all the Bibles in the different missions. More than once he has cleared our shelves of all the cheaper kinds of Bibles and New Testaments. In this way the Bible Society has the privilege of sharing in the glorious work. For the Word of God is not only able to make these soldiers "wise unto salvation," but also to make them "perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." Would to God that not only in China, but in western lands also, there were more generals like Feng Yu Hsiang!

How long shall the following report be necessary? Money is the answer to the question:

Our supply of books this year has been pitifully insufficient. Not only were we unable to employ colporteurs, but we were obliged

constantly to cut down orders for books and refuse requests for grants. At present I am entirely out of Gospels and Acts to supply the correspondents. Indeed, we have orders for several thousand which we cannot fill. There are also many requests coming in for the Mandarin Bible, the first edition of which has been entirely sold out. We are waiting for further supplies.

The China Agency is in reality five Agencies grouped in one administration. The Agency Secretary is the Rev. John R. Hykes, D.D., located at Shanghai, and the sub-Agency headquarters are at Canton, Chengtu, Chungking, Hankow, and Peking.

Under "Mandarin" I have estimated for manufacturing 2,000,000 portions, an increase of 1,000,000 copies and \$14,000 in cost. If we are allowed this increased appropriation, we can circulate an additional million portions among the non-Christian Chinese for the cost of manufacture plus transportation to the distributing centers. We have the office staff to handle at least 3,000,000 portions; but it cannot be reduced for handling the present smaller issues, because it is needed in the busy seasons. I trust we shall receive the full amount asked for the purchase and manufacture of Scriptures. We shall be seriously embarrassed, if it is not appropriated.

Here is where \$14,000 can be placed to advantage. One million more portions! What may they not accomplish!



Bible colporteur in China starting on a journey



Japan Agency

Headquarters, Tokyo. Agency Secretary, Rev. Karl E. Aurell.

THE headquarters of the Japan Agency are now located in Tokyo, instead of Yokohama. Of this change the Agency Secretary says:

Tokyo is the center for all enterprises of importance of this people. Learning that the headquarters is in the capital on a famous street like the Ginza, gives the same a prestige to the Japanese mind everywhere equal to nothing else that might be done for it. We thank God, therefore, for this move, being convinced that the work will progress with ever-increasing advance as the years go by.

Everything is interesting in Japan, so it would seem.

Even sin, we fear, too often appears as attractive as the cherry blossoms. So Bible work has its romantic, as well as its prosaic, side, as the workers try to make the Bible the spiritual Fuji of the Empire.

Whose imagination is not quickened and his faith strengthened as to the efficacy of Bible work when he reads the following story?

Three years ago Colporteur Tanaami sold a 5-sen Testament to the proprietor of a store in Hongo Ward, in Tokyo. The deal having been made, Tanaami took the Testament and read the twelfth chapter of Hebrews to the man, simply adding: "When you meet with failure, turn to this chapter for help and strength," and bade him good-bye. Some time after that this man actually did meet with failure in his business. Recalling what our colporteur had said, he turned to the passage referred to. The hunger in his heart for the God of the Bible was kindled, and at the first opportunity he attended a gospel mission, heard and accepted the testimony of a living witness, was saved and became a member of the church. Subsequent to the marvelous change in his life material blessings were showered upon him, and to the amazement of many he regained his former business. Salvation from sin also brought new strength to his frail body. Every Wednesday evening, of his own accord, he goes out and holds open-air meetings, in which he testifies of what Christ has done for him and freely gives portions to those who become interested. Moreover, when he has his special sales day, he encloses a portion in every package sent out of the store. Truly an act worthy of imitation.

Another paragraph from the Agency Secretary stirs up visions of romantic service for which needed funds must be supplied:

Then I anticipate to have to take care of Scriptures for the South Sea Islands and Siberia. So you see we are facing a coming year brimful of work, and I want to be in a position to go through with it all.

South Sea Islands and Siberia! What a contrast! Tropical vegetation, blue skies and ocean breezes; versus frozen rivers, snowy carpet and Arctic winds. But everywhere human hearts with a need that can be met only by the Bible message. How diligent we should be in supplying this need!



Selling Scriptures on Japan's streets



Philippines Agency

Headquarters, Manila. Agency Secretary, Rev. J. L. McLaughlin. (Rev. H. W. Widdoes, in charge.)

THE first stage of Bible work in the Philippines has passed, and we have now entered the second stage.

During the first twenty years of American occupation, both the American Bible Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society carried on work. Both Societies found abundant work—work that taxed their resources. Urgent calls for Scriptures in the various dialects offered a task in translation and publication that kept both Societies busy. Now that the bulk of translation work is over and first calls answered for the “proscribed” Book, the British Society has withdrawn, leaving all the Bible work to our Society.

The following abstract from the letter of the Agency Secretary, with reference to his estimates, gives emphasis to the plans and needs for 1921:



Rev. A. B. De Roos and his Bible booth

We should be planning for Pocket Testaments in at least two more languages—yes, three—just as soon as possible.

Again, I am very much in doubt if the estimates on printing are anywhere near what we will have to pay for the number of books stated, and the Agency should by all means plan for that many at the very least for next year.

Were we not to get out these dialect ver-

sions, the present generation at least of the Filipinos would never be able to possess the Word in their own language. But here is where so much of our appropriations have had to go, so that we have always been short on funds for actual distribution. And we will continue to be hampered till we get sufficiently stocked up in these various dialects, to meet the calls that come to us.

On the whole, the outlook for the future is very bright, indeed. Opposition to the open Bible for the people is increasing, but is developing a type of militant Christian character, and is calling constant attention to the “proscribed” Book and stimulating the demand for it, as well as discussion of its contents.

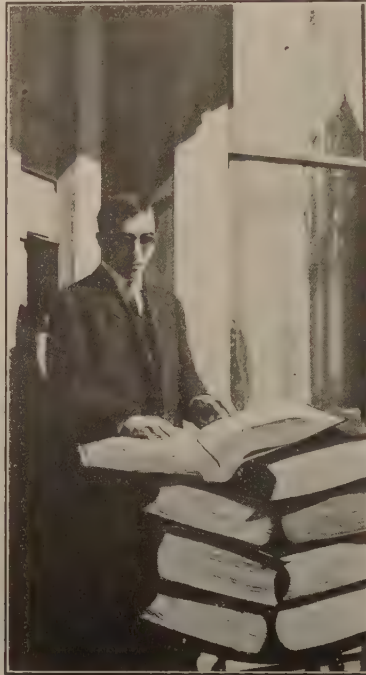


Special Types of Service

FOR the past seventy-Bible Society has the blind. Bibles in four for the blind have been donations and the non-the enterprise hun the sightless have been tures in their own script. bossed type occupies takes up seven feet of shown on the accompa prise the New Testa

Obviously, the pub blind is very expensive; this purpose have made during this three-quar

The Society plans to pel of John in raised can soldier who was This is one item in the



The blind receive their sight

five years the American been the great friend of teen different systems published, and through commercial handling of dreds of thousands of able to read the Scrip-The entire Bible in em-nineteen volumes and shelf space. The books nying illustration com-ment only.

lication of Bibles for the but special donations for such a service possible ters of a century.

give a copy of the Gos-letters to every Ameri-blinded in the world war. increased budget.

Systems of Scriptures for the blind have been provided in foreign languages; namely, Arabic in two systems, Spanish, Armenian, Armeno-Turkish, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Siamese in one system each.

In the aggregate a vast amount of Bible distribution is done in prisons and reformatories. It is impossible, of course, to tabulate results of work of this description. Indeed, in the nature of the case most of the good results of this service may never be known in this world. But the love of Christ will always constrain Christian workers to visit the prisoners and to leave with them the Book of Hope, the Good News of Him who is able to break their bonds of imprisoning sin and to lead them out of darkness into His marvelous light.

These special types of service are carried on in all the Agencies.



To the prisoners the good news comes. Prison at Walla Walla, Washington



Battleships, Bibles, and Boys



THE Society has always maintained a strong interest in the soldiers and sailors of our nation and, in times of war, in the soldiers and sailors of all belligerents. During the World War nearly seven million Bibles, Testaments, and portions of Scriptures were distributed, most of them (near-

ly five million) among the American forces. We hope for the day when the influence of the Bible will make battleships a matter of history only. The promise contained in the faces of these two "New Navajoes," for whom the Scriptures have just been translated, is a suggestion of the transforming influence of the gospel by which this happy consummation will be realized.



"He took a child and set him in the midst of them"

"Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me"



Where There Are No Agencies

IN those places where the Society has no Agencies, it works chiefly through American missionary societies and their missionaries. It makes grants of money or books, for the work of Bible distribution.

These missionaries go on Bible-distributing tours, which are often the most profitable thing they do, as the people, because of religious bigotry, often will not attend meetings or listen to preaching, but will receive the Scriptures, even sometimes paying for them.

The Bible Society does little in India, because it is covered so well by a number of strong agencies of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Our work in Europe has been largely supplemental to Bible Societies needing help, or missionary societies requiring assistance.

In France we have operated almost wholly through the Bible Society of France. During one year we sent 20,000 little Testaments to them because of the shortage in paper.

In Bohemia, at Prague, we have helped the American Board and sent books through with President Masaryk and to Y. M. C. A. workers. Our program will be to continue our supplements to these agencies working in Europe.

We have just made a grant to supply Scriptures in Vienna, where there is extreme destitution.

The Society is planning to assist in the

creation of a Bible in the Slovak language, on a petition of Slovaks in this country.

We want to help Russia, too, and plan to do work in that country as the way opens, especially in Siberia.

All the communications that we have received from our correspondents in every part of Europe indicate a great opening for a spiritual movement, and such a movement must be based on the circulation of the Bible. So we are having a call for help in the circulation of the Scriptures from every one of the new European states and from the older states as well—from the Baltic states, Jugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, as well as from lands like France, Germany, and Italy.

The Society will continue its policy of helping missionary and other workers there.

In Czechoslovakia we have been requested by the National Bible Society of Scotland to co-operate with them.

The Society is purposing to spend in the year 1921, in the various countries of Europe, as much as in any one of several of the Foreign Agencies.

Arabia is a good field for our supplemental work.

Africa presents the problem largely of a filling in with translation work and grants of Bibles to missions.

*Blind children of India
"It is not the will of
your Father which is
in heaven, that one of
these little ones should
perish"*





Bible Houses for Bible Work



*The old and
the new at
Cristobal.*

*A rented
building
vs.
A permanent
headquarters
owned by the
Society.*



Can there be any question as to the strategy of providing adequate and worthy headquarters for our work in various parts of the world? Our present Bible House at Cristobal is the center of all kinds of religious work for the district. We have our own buildings in New York, Cristobal, and Manila. The succeeding paragraphs tell of the needs in other places. Here are opportunities for specific gifts by individuals or groups. A splendid investment for the Kingdom is the erection of a Bible House. This fine building at Cristobal is the Centennial gift of the Maryland Bible Society.

China. During the year a gift ought to be received to put up a Bible House in Peking on a lot that the Society holds in the heart of that capital, a corner lot not far from the Y. M. C. A. building. This would cost about \$75,000. For Hankow, a building of \$25,000 or thereabouts; for Shanghai, a building that would cost from \$50,000 to \$75,000; for Canton, where a lot has been given the Society, a building at a cost of \$8,000 to \$10,000.

Brazil. In Brazil it is hoped that the gifts of friends in America will be received so that, in connection with the celebration of the Centennial of Independence in 1922, a Bible House may be erected in Rio de Janeiro. From \$60,000 to \$75,000 is needed for this purpose, and provision for it ought to be made this year. The people down there will help us.

La Plata. It is very desirable that

\$50,000 to \$75,000 be received, that the Society may own its own home in Buenos Ayres, where rents are excessive and, indeed, almost impossible.

Tokyo. The Society has moved into new rented quarters in Tokyo, but it should have a home of its own in that capital, and also a home for the Agency Secretary. It would probably cost \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Lima. We ought to have \$25,000 to \$50,000 to make a home for the Agent and an office.

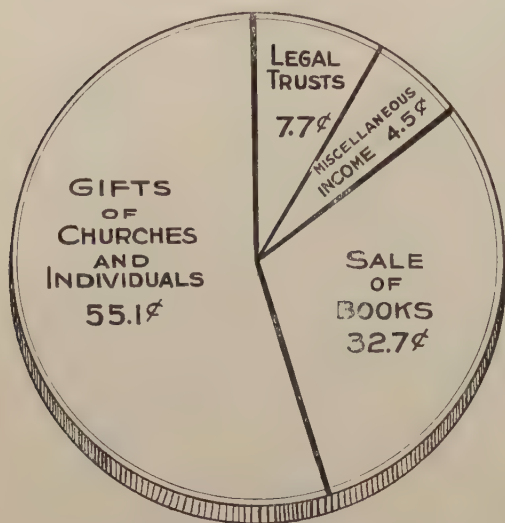
Mexico City. We should put up a building for about \$35,000 to \$40,000.

San Juan, in the West Indies, should have a building that would cost \$25,000 to \$30,000.

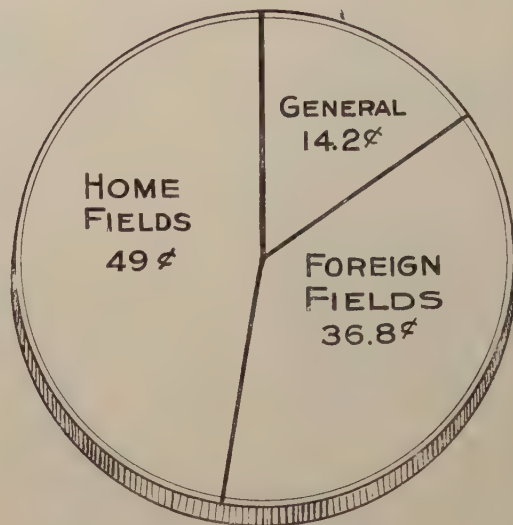
In addition, it would be very desirable if we could have a building for a Bible House in each of our home Agencies, except the Atlantic Agency, where we have one, and in San Francisco where we have an equity in one.



A General View of the Budget for 1921



Where each dollar comes from



Where each dollar goes

THE budget for 1921 is \$1,222,367. It is indeed a venture of faith. It is a twenty-five per cent. increase over the budget of last year, and represents the largest program ever undertaken in the long history of the Society. Where this money is expected to come from and how it will be expended are told in the diagrams above.

Where It Must Come From

Fifty-five cents out of every dollar must come directly from the hearts and pocketbooks of Christian people. That means \$672,367.

A little more than seven cents will be realized from the income of permanent funds. The amount is only \$95,000. The Society is not heavily endowed.

Four and a half cents will come from miscellaneous sources, such as net rentals of the Bible House and income from temporarily invested funds, amounting to \$55,000.

Only thirty-three cents comes from the sale of books (\$400,000). That means that for every dollar spent only thirty-three cents is returned in the purchase price of the books. The other sixty-seven cents must be supplied by those who believe in this world-wide Christian propaganda.

For every day in the year we must receive \$3,349. Of this, \$1,123 will come in from the sale of books. That means that \$2,226 must be supplied every day during 1921, including holidays and Sundays, by generous Christian people who realize the fundamental value of Bible circulation.

How It Will Be Spent

Forty-nine cents out of every dollar will be spent in the home field—\$598,857. The preceding pages have given a brief outline of the many ways in which this amount will be used.

Thirty-seven cents will go to meet the needs of the mission fields in which the church is laboring—\$449,550. In 1919, roughly speaking, 30 per cent. of the circulation was in the United States; 17 per cent. in countries where Roman Catholicism has been dominant; 2 per cent. in Moslem countries; and 50 per cent. in Asia and Africa. In a word, 70 per cent. of the circulation will be in the foreign field and principally in non-Christian countries.

The balance of \$173,960—less than fifteen cents out of each dollar—will be devoted to all the other processes of the Society: the administration of its world-wide affairs, the promotion of its general interests, the preparation and distribution of literature, the publication of the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD, and all other general expenses.



The Budget in Detail

I. HOME FIELDS.....	\$598,857
1. HOME AGENCIES.....	\$159,500
The appropriation for each Agency includes the salary of Agency Secretary, depository, office expenses, colporteurs' salaries and expenses, freight, postage, incidentals, and grants in books made in the field. It does not include the cost of Bibles printed at the Bible House, N. Y., and handled by each Agency. An Agency Secretary may order from \$10,000 to \$50,000 worth of books according to his facilities for disposing of them.	
Agency among Colored People.....	\$25,500
Northwestern Agency.....	22,500
South Atlantic Agency.....	16,000
Western Agency.....	13,500
Pacific Agency.....	16,000
Southwestern Agency.....	16,000
Eastern Agency.....	12,000
Central Agency.....	15,500
Atlantic Agency.....	19,500
Contingent fund.....	3,000
2. MANUFACTURE OF SCRIPTURES AT BIBLE HOUSE.....	420,857
These books are used chiefly in the Home Agencies and really are a supplement to their appropriations. Books are also sent to Latin-American countries, where they are included in the appropriations.	
3. MISCELLANEOUS HOME ITEMS.....	18,500
This includes grants to Life Members, other grants, Secretaries' conferences, emergency expenses, etc.	
II. FOREIGN FIELDS.....	449,550
FOREIGN AGENCIES.....	412,700
The appropriation for each Agency covers the salary of the Agency Secretary, depository and office expenses, purchase and customhouse charges, manufacture and purchase of Scriptures, freight and storage, colporteurs' wages and expenses, superintendence of colportage, insurance, rent, postage, stationery, traveling expenses, exchange, and grants in books and in funds, estimated receipts from sales retained on the field, and contributions.	
Levant Agency.....	\$66,000
La Plata Agency.....	30,100
Japan Agency.....	53,500
China Agency.....	103,000
Brazil Agency.....	34,000
Mexico Agency.....	27,400
West Indies Agency.....	21,000
Siam Agency.....	12,200
Panama Canal and Central America Agency.....	20,400
Philippines Agency.....	30,600
Upper Andes Agency.....	13,500
Contingent Fund.....	1,000
MISCELLANEOUS.....	29,350
Europe.....	20,100
Asia.....	1,250
Africa.....	1,000
Foreign exchange (not included in Agency appropriations)...	1,000
Co-operative movements.....	1,000
Furlough and traveling expenses.....	5,000
TRANSLATION AND REVISION.....	5,000
PLATES OF NEW VERSIONS.....	2,500
III. GENERAL EXPENSES.....	173,960
In this amount are included the administration expenses, promotion of the general interests of the Society, pensions, capital charges, etc.	
GRAND TOTAL.....	\$1,222,367



A Monthly Prayer Cycle

THE Bible is a book of prayer. Yet one seldom hears a prayer for the circulation of the Bible itself. The suggestion of appropriate phases of Bible work for daily remembrance will help many to join more regularly and intelligently in such prayer. This cycle of prayer, of course, may be used during any month and repeated during the various months of the year, as desired.

By referring to the previous pages of this RECORD, one's knowledge may be refreshed and his interest stimulated from day to day. Always remember the Agency Secretary and his helpers in connection with the interests of an Agency.

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| <p>1st day For world-wide circulation of the Bible; that there may be no people who do not have it in their own language.</p> <p>2d day For our colporteurs; that they and their families may be kept in health; that they may be cheered in absence from home, helped in lonely places, given wisdom with which to speak.</p> <p>3d day For Bible work in Philippines; that sturdy Christian manhood be developed, and opposition made to serve progress of truth (p. 23).</p> <p>4th day For industrial and mining centers, and Bible work in them. For Atlantic Agency (p. 11).</p> <p>5th day For translators; that their minds may be illumined by the Spirit to find just the right words and expressions to convey the truth.</p> <p>6th day For the blind and our special work among them; for the sailors and soldiers, the chaplains and those who do special Bible work among them (pp. 24, 25).</p> <p>7th day For Japan; that Bible influence may save the nation from materialism and militarism; for Siberia and the South Sea Islands (p. 22).</p> <p>8th day For the officers of the Society and the Board of Managers; that vision, sympathy, and good judgment may characterize their work.</p> <p>9th day For the mountain homes, the children growing to manhood in them, for the schools and churches, and for the Bible work among them. For the Central Agency work (p. 10).</p> <p>10th day For increase in number of Bible Houses; that individuals may become interested to give these Houses; that those already built may serve the Kingdom largely (p. 27).</p> <p>11th day For China; that the multitudes learning to read in the new script may not be without the Scriptures. For the Chinese generals and their men (pp. 20, 21).</p> <p>12th day For immigrant peoples; "gospel hardened" communities; crowds distracted by countless appeals of the world; neglected regions; lumberjacks (p. 9).</p> <p>13th day For the British and Foreign Bible Society, the National Bible Society of Scotland and the Continental and other Bible societies and their work; and for the work we have in co-operation with them.</p> <p>14th day For Siam; that various peoples may have Scriptures in their own tongue; for house-to-house canvasses; for advance work (p. 19).</p> <p>15th day For North American Indians' Christianization, education and development; Indian children (p. 25); rural Louisiana (p. 8).</p> <p>16th day For larger number of individual givers to Bible work; for more churches participating</p> | <p>by offerings; for denominational bodies making the American Bible Society their official Bible Agency.</p> <p>17th day For the New Day in the Levant; that it may be based on Bible principles; for the suffering Bible-loving Armenians and other distressed folk of this section (p. 18).</p> <p>18th day For the work among Mexicans, Japanese, Chinese, and others on the Pacific Coast; for children in remote new settlements; for Alaska and Hawaii (p. 7).</p> <p>19th day For Auxiliary Bible Societies; for New England work covered largely by state Bible Societies; for Maryland and various city and county societies.</p> <p>20th day For our relations with South America, political, commercial and religious; that we may have common ground on Bible principles. For La Plata Agency (p. 17).</p> <p>21st day For Bible work among Mormons; in isolated ranch homes; in mining towns; for children in irreligious communities (p. 6).</p> <p>22d day For daily reading of the Bible, in private and at family altars; that knowledge of the Scriptures may increase, especially among the coming generation.</p> <p>23d day For Brazil; that the needs of more Scriptures and of a Bible House may be supplied. For Sunday schools and Y. M. C. A. (p. 16).</p> <p>24th day For the mill towns of the South; that Christian influences may keep the people from being carried away by the evil in their new surroundings (p. 5).</p> <p>25th day For all people kept in ignorance of the Bible; for Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia (p. 15).</p> <p>26th day For our cities; for increase in all religious forces at work there; for Bible stands on the streets (p. 4).</p> <p>27th day For the poor in every land, especially in Latin America; for advance in Bible and all missionary work among them (p. 14).</p> <p>28th day For the colored people, especially those who have come into new city conditions in the North (p. 3).</p> <p>29th day For Mexico; that its internal problem may be solved, its international relations adjusted, and religion and education given opportunity to do their work (p. 13).</p> <p>30th day For the West Indies; that Christian ideals may prevail; for advance work (p. 12).</p> <p>31st day For our Nation; that it may be a nation "whose God is the Lord"; that the open Bible may continue to be the inspiration of our institutions; that religion may be vital, not formal.</p> |
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Extra copies of this number of the RECORD may be secured upon request for those who wish to enlist friends in this Concert of Prayer.



Editors, THE SECRETARIES - - - - - New York, January, 1921

Editorial Notes

THE cover design of this issue of the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD represents an actual experience in the work of a colporteur. The art work for the cover was done by Mr. H. L. Gleason, of New York City, who has done a great deal of similar work for religious interests in past years. His poster for the New World Movement of Northern Baptists has been pronounced by many as the finest poster produced during that period of unusually fine posters.

The Bible is a man's book, and our colporteurs find men willing to give a sympathetic hearing to their presentation of the Bible as a book of life. When we remember that such incidents as that pictured on the cover are daily occurrences in some form or other, our imagination pictures some of the beneficent results of this form of service.

* * * *

The beautiful picture on page 32, which tells the story of the last hours of the Venerable Bede, is from the painting by J. Doyle Penrose, A. R. H. A., Royal Academy, 1902. The Venerable Bede is reported to have spent the last days of his life dictating his translation of the last chapter of St. John's Gospel.

* * * *

As is evident from the exposition of the work of the Society given on the preceding pages, the American Bible Society is a missionary enterprise and must depend almost entirely upon the gifts of churches and individuals for its support.

These gifts may be made in various forms. Annual Membership is constituted by a gift of five dollars annually for the work; Life Membership, fifty dollars; Life Directorship, one hundred and fifty dollars.

Annual Members are entitled to vote at the annual meeting and for election of Managers; also to receive the annual "Story," the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD, and other pamphlet literature of the Society. Life Members receive in addition the privilege of drawing annually \$1 worth of Bibles, Testaments, or portions for distribution. A leaflet describing the privileges of various classes of Members is issued by the Society, and is gladly sent on request.

Legacies are gratefully received and have through the years been an important source of income.

Another form of gift which is appealing to an increasing number of people is the annuity. The Society issues an attractive and informing booklet entitled "Bibles and Bonds," describing the principles and advantages of Annuity Bonds and giving full information as to method of procedure for those interested. This booklet will be sent on request.



The Last Chapter

From painting by J. Doyle Penrose

The Last Chapter



HAT which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you."

It was sacred work—transcribing the immortal Word for future generations. And none but reverent hands might engage in such a task.

And now that the last chapter was in hand, the face of the aged disciple shone, though he wist it not, and the room became as one of heaven's chambers. With his Master, he could say: "I have finished the work Thou gavest me to do."

'Tis sacred work—this scattering of the Word of life to the ends of the earth. When will its last chapter be written? We know not. We only know that each year adds another chapter to the lengthening story. We pray that the chapter for 1921 may be a worthy one, and each succeeding year more worthy still, until "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" and "the kingdoms of this world shall have become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ."



Bible House, New York

Erected 1852-53

A House of Blessing

DEDICATED to the printing of the Holy Scriptures "without note or comment" and to their circulation to the ends of the earth, the Bible House has been, for nearly three score and ten years, a House of Blessing to the world.

From it have gone over a hundred million of the one hundred and forty million Scriptures in one hundred and fifty languages and dialects that have gone forth, a river of blessing to the nations, during the 105 years of the Society's life.

During recent years, counting an average of eight hours worked each day, and omitting Sundays and holidays, the output of the Society has been an average of 16 books printed and bound every minute of every working day of the year. Many of these books were large volumes in embossed type for the blind, and handsome editions for pulpit and private use.

The American Bible Society distributes the Bible not only in the languages in which it prints it, but its workers are furnished with any one of the translations which may be needed. Up to 1919, the Word of God had been printed throughout the world in 713 languages and dialects. During the past decade, some complete Book of the Bible has appeared in a new language on an average of one every six weeks—the British and Foreign Bible Society and the American Bible Society being the chief producers.



In Him was life; and the life was
the light of men.....and the
light shineth in darkness.....